

*“Let us sing, sweetly sing, At the house then we’ll sing”—46 Let Us Sing*

# *Maryland*

## SHAPE NOTE DOT ORG

**VOL.2 NO.1 ▼●■◆ JAN-MAR 2025**

### **FIND FELLOW FASOLA FOLK**

Welcome to our newsletter, connecting singers across Maryland and nearby regions. We aim to strengthen our community by sharing events that celebrate this unique tradition. The books *The Sacred Harp*, *The Shenandoah Harmony*, and the new *The Valley Pocket Harmonist*, are frequently used for this powerful *a cappella* singing style, using *fa so la mi* shape-note notation. It’s an inclusive tradition where everyone is encouraged to sing and lead. At the center we’ve included a “fridge-friendly” calendar—so, do you have the right magnets?

#### **Annapolis | FIRST SATURDAYS / 2-4PM**

The Pendulum Pit, Mellon Hall, St. John’s College Annapolis, MD

Books: *The Shenandoah Harmony*, *The Valley Pocket Harmonist*

Email: Thomas – fasolannapolis@gmail.com

Note: Free parking across the street at Calvert Street Garage

#### **Baltimore | 2ND MON. & 4TH TUES. / 7-9:30PM**

Four Hour Day Lutherie, 4305 Harford Rd., Baltimore, MD

2nd Mon. Books: *The Shenandoah Harmony*, *The Sacred Harp*

4th Tues. Books: *The Shenandoah Harmony*, *The Valley Pocket Harmonist*

Email: Nora or Isaac – baltimoreshapenote@gmail.com

#### **Easton | SECOND SATURDAYS / 2-5PM**

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 7401 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD

Book: *The Shenandoah Harmony*

Email: Topher – hieanon+fasola@gmail.com

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## ***2025 First Quarter Regional Singings:***

The abbreviation "**Sat.+**" means the event is at least two days. We've attempted to verify dates and locations; however, changes may occur. Check online or with organizer before attending.

### **JANUARY** ▼●■◆

- 4 SAT.+ Valley Pocket Harmonist Release | 10-3pm**  
Grace Episcopal 110 N. Church Street, Berryville VA 22611
- 5 SUN. Lancaster Shape Note Singing | 3-5:30pm**  
1855 Stony Battery Rd, Mountville, PA 17554
- 7 TUE. Richmond Shape Note Singing | 7-9pm**  
St.Giles Presbyterian Church 5200 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23226
- 11 SAT. Easton Shenandoah Sing | 2-5pm**  
Unit. Univers. Fellowship, 7401 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD 21601
- 12 SUN. Upshur Community Sing | 12-3pm**  
Special indoors winter location, contact organizer for more info.
- 13 MON. Baltimore Second Monday Sing | 7-9:30pm**  
See website for "Love Astounding" announcement.
- 15 WED. DC Capitol Hill Regular Singing | 7-9:30pm**  
201 4th St SE, Washington, DC 20003
- 18 SAT. N. Shenandoah Valley Regular Singing | 3-6pm**  
2336 Salem Church Rd, Boyce, VA 22620
- 19 SUN. Richmond Shape Note Singing | 2-4pm**  
St.Giles Presb. Church 5200 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23226
- 25 SAT.+ Keystone Convention | 10-3pm**  
Germantown Mennonite Ch., 21 W Washington Ln, Phil., PA 19144
- 26 SUN. Exeter Sacred Harp Regular Singing | 6-9pm**  
191 Meetinghouse Road, Douglassville, PA 19518
- 28 TUE. Baltimore Fourth Tuesday Singing | 7-9:30pm**  
Four Hour Day Lutherie, 4305 Harford Rd, Baltimore, MD 21214

### **FEBRUARY** ▼●■◆

- 1 SAT. Annapolis Shape Note Singing | 2-4pm**  
12 St Johns St, Annapolis, MD 21401
- 2 SUN. Lancaster Shape Note Singing | 3-5:30pm**  
1855 Stony Battery Rd, Mountville, PA 17554
- 4 TUE. Richmond Shape Note Singing | 7-9pm**  
St.Giles Presbyterian Church 5200 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23226
- 8 SAT. Easton Shenandoah Singing | 2-5pm**  
Unit. Univers. Fellowship, 7401 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD 21601

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- 9 Sun. Upshur Community Sing | 12–3pm**  
Special indoors winter location, contact organizer for more info.
- 10 Mon. Baltimore Second Monday Sing | 7–9:30pm**  
Four Hour Day Lutherie, 4305 Harford Rd, Baltimore, MD 21214
- 15 SAT. N. Shenandoah Valley Regular Singing | 3–6pm**  
2336 Salem Church Rd, Boyce, VA 22620
- 16 SUN. Richmond Shape Note Singing | 2–4pm**  
St.Giles Presb. Church 5200 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23226
- 19 WED. DC Capitol Hill Regular Singing | 7–9:30 pm**  
201 4th St SE, Washington, DC 20003
- 23 SUN. Exeter Sacred Harp Regular Sing | 6:30–9pm**  
191 Meetinghouse Road, Douglassville, PA 19518
- 25 TUE. Baltimore Fourth Tuesday Singing | 7–9:30 pm**  
Four Hour Day Lutherie, 4305 Harford Rd, Baltimore, MD 21214

## MARCH ▼●■◆

- 1 SAT. Annapolis Shape Note Regular Singing | 2–4pm**  
12 St Johns St, Annapolis, MD 21401
- 2 SUN. Lancaster Monthly Shape Note Sing | 3–5:30pm**  
1855 Stony Battery Rd, Mountville, PA 17554
- 4 TUE. Richmond Shape Note Singing | 7–9pm**  
St.Giles Presbyterian Church 5200 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23226
- 8 SAT. Easton Shenandoah Singing | 2–5pm**  
Unit. Univers. Fellowship, 7401 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD 21601
- 9 SUN. Upshur Community Sing | 12–3pm**  
Special indoors winter location, contact organizer for more info.
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# ***A NEW TUNEBOOK!*** **The Valley Pocket Harmonist**

This carefully curated collection features classic and newly composed four-shape note tunes, appealing to shape-note singing enthusiasts everywhere.

The heart of the tunebook includes unpublished works by John Bayer, Jr., rediscovered *Songs of Zion* (1821) by James Carrell, and inspiration from historical sources like *The Valley Harmonist* (1836) and *The Southern and Western Pocket Harmonist* (1846). It also offers traditional folk and spiritual melodies arranged in the shape-note style, drawing on contributions from figures like George Pullen Jackson and Winston Wilkinson. The book enriches its content with Shaker hymns, and the poetry of Milton, Blake, and Dickinson, alongside new works from contemporary composers.

This nine-year project brought together a dedicated team of singers and scholars, combining extensive research with feedback from proof-singing groups across the country. The result is a tunebook balanced with songs suitable for both all-day singings and smaller gatherings.

Now available for purchase, *The Valley Pocket Harmonist* is a portable, essential addition to any shape-note collection, designed to keep this vibrant tradition alive.

**There will be an official roll-out singing January 4-5 in Berryville VA.**

**Find out more and buy it at [SHENANDOAHARMONY.COM](http://SHENANDOAHARMONY.COM).**

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**THE HOLY DEACON AND THE FA SO LA MUSIC MASTER** by A. Bierce (*adapted*)  
An itinerant shape-note music master who had worked hard teaching the Fa So La system to the local townsfolk for several hours whispered to a Holy Deacon of the local church:

“Brother, these people know you, and your active support will bear fruit abundantly. Please pass the plate for me, and you shall have one fourth.”

The Holy Deacon did so, and after gathering the donations, slipped the money into his pocket, waited until the final “parting hand” was sung, and said goodnight.

“But the money, brother, the money that you collected!” said the itinerant music master.

“Nothing is coming to you,” was the reply. “The devil has hardened their hearts, and one fourth is all they gave.”

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## **HOLLOW SQUARE BOOKS.COM**

*Find a selection of tunebooks and other works on shape-note music in the Sacred Harp style—including some otherwise out of print titles, and exclusive t-shirt and sticker designs, too.*

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